

## **California Department of Food & Agriculture**

### **Minutes**

of the Joint Meeting / Conference Call  
of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board  
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force  
Held on Monday, October 29, 2009  
CDFA Auditorium at 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA

#### **PD/GWSS BOARD**

Members Present: Kevin Andrew\*, Dennis Atkinson, Greg Coleman, Pete Downs, Ben Drake\*, David House\*, Drew Johnson\*, Brad Lange, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre, Dana Merrill\*, Al Rossini\*, Marilyn Wolf\*

Members Absent: Steve Schafer, Herb Schmidt

#### **PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

Members Present: Kevin Andrew\*, Ted Batkin\*, George Bruening\*, Ben Drake\*, David House\*, Scott Hudson\*, Nancy Irelan\*, Drew Johnson\*, Steve Nation, Corky Roche, John Snyder\*, Judy Stewart-Leslie, Beth Stone-Smith, David Whitmer

Members Absent: Larry Bezark, Nat DiBuduo, Joe MacIlvaine, Richard Mounts, Robert Wample, Craig Weaver, David Wineman

#### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Cecilia Chi-Ham, Robert Dolezal, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco\*, Ken Freeze, Tye Hafner, Craig Hanes, Sue Ichiho, Camron King, Paul Kronenberg, Eric Lauritzen\*, Janet LeMasters, Mike Miller, Greg Morris, Gabriel Paulino, Stacie Oswalt, Tasha Rassuli, Ted Rieger, Roger Spencer, Sean Veling, Doug West, Bob Wynn

\*Denotes attendance via conference call

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Acting PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Greg Coleman and PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson Kevin Andrew called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

#### **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force (Task Force). A quorum was present for both the Board and the Task Force.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Chairpersons Greg Coleman and Kevin Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bob Wynn reported on federal funding for plant pest programs and a recent trip to Washington D.C. which he, Secretary Kawamura, and federal, state, and industry representatives had taken recently. Bob also mentioned that the PDCP office would be moving to a new location on November 9.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairpersons Greg Coleman and Kevin Andrew asked the Board and Task Force members to review and vote to approve the minutes from the meeting held on June 22, 2009.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board and Task Force to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2009 meeting.

#### Details of Board Vote

Motion: Pete Downs      Second: Dennis Atkinson  
In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, Lange,  
Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Wolf  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Schafer, Schmidt

#### Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Ben Drake      Second: Corky Roche  
In Favor: Andrew, Batkin, Bruening, Drake, House, Hudson, Irelan, Johnson, Nation,  
Roche, Snyder, Stewart-Leslie, Stone-Smith, Whitmer  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Bezark, DiBuduo, MacIlvaine, Mounts, Wample, Weaver, Whitman,  
Wineman

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board and Task Force was set for Monday, January 25, 2010, in Sacramento, and will begin at 1:00 pm.

### **NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

A Nomination Committee was established and charged with recommending a slate of officers to be considered at the next meeting. The Committee members are Greg Coleman, Pete Downs, Ben Drake, and Dana Merrill.

### **FISCAL UPDATE**

Bob Wynn briefly discussed the serious budget situation facing California and how it might affect the Pierce's Disease Control Program (PDCP). Next, Beth Stone-Smith reported on federal funding for the program, saying she expected the federal 2010 budget to provide a similar amount for the California program as in the previous year. Sue Ichiho then gave the financial report for the PDCP and the PD/GWSS Board. Sue stated that the passage of Senate Bill 2 (SB 2) necessitated that a grower referendum be conducted, with an anticipated cost of approximately \$70,000.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to take \$70,000 out of the new projects budget line item and allocate that for the referendum charges.

#### Details of Board Vote

Motion: Pete Downs      Seconded: Brad Lange  
In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, Lange,  
Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Wolf  
Against: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Schafer, Schmidt

### **SB 2 & GROWER REFERENDUM**

Tom Esser reported on the passage of SB 2. He said it would become effective January 1, 2010, and would extend by five years the sunset dates for the Board, the Advisory Task Force, the winegrape assessment, and the PDCP. It would also allow assessment funds to be used for

research and outreach on other serious pests and diseases of winegrapes, under specified conditions. Extension of the Board and the assessment would be dependent upon a favorable vote by the assessment payers. Tom said the PDCP has been working with the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service and the CDFA Marketing Branch to prepare for the vote. Under the current timeline, the results of the vote are expected to be available around June 15, 2010.

### **PIPRA UPDATE**

Gabriel Paulino gave an update on PIPRA's (Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture's) recent PD/GWSS activities. PIPRA has been working with researchers on the field testing of newly-available plant materials. They have identified four candidate locations; two are in California, one in Texas, and one in Florida. The Board requested cost information be provided.

### **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Tom Esser gave the report for the Technology Transfer Subcommittee. He said the subcommittee had met twice to discuss where field trials of newly-developed plant materials should be conducted. The subcommittee decided to bring the question to the Board. The possible need to obtain permits to conduct the trials was also discussed.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to approve moving ahead with the permit process and that PIPRA would be the applicant.

#### **Details of Board Vote**

Motion:	Pete Downs	Seconded:	Steve McIntyre
In Favor:	Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Wolf		
Against:	None		
Abstain:	None		
Absent:	Schafer, Schmidt		

### **RESEARCH DIRECTOR UPDATE**

Research Director Nancy Ireland discussed the development of a list of targeted research objectives, which was prepared to identify potential contract research needs and opportunities. She said these projects are intended to be pursued in conjunction with the competitive grant program. Nancy provided the Board with the list.

Nancy suggested the Board approve initiating discussions to address objective A.1 on the list (Development of grape regeneration and transformation systems for commercially-important rootstocks).

Steve McIntyre moved that the Board allow Nancy to move forward on objective A.1 and table the remainder objectives until after the RFP process is complete. Pete Downs seconded.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to support targeted research objective A.1 and table the remainder of the objectives.

#### **Details of Board Vote**

Motion:	Steve McIntyre	Seconded:	Pete Downs
In Favor:	Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Wolf		
Against:	None		
Abstain:	None		
Absent:	Schafer, Schmidt		

It was decided that the costs would fall under the \$1 million set aside for new projects.

Nancy also reported that two new members had been appointed to the Research Scientific Advisory Panel. Dr. Mary Beth Mudgett is with the Department of Biology at Stanford University. Dr. Kim Hoelmer is with the USDA-ARS' Beneficial Insect Research Introduction Unit at the University of Delaware. The new members were appointed to replace Dr. Roger Innes and Dr. Greg Loeb.

## **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE**

Craig Hanes and Ken Freeze provided updates on the various activities of Brown Miller Communications. Roger Spencer noted that the Brown Miller outreach and education contract would expire on April 20, 2010. Roger recommended the Board propose a new two-year contract RFP with an option to renew and extend it an additional year.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board to begin the RFP process for a two-year public relations contract with a provision for a one year extension.

### **Details of Board Vote**

Motion:	Pete Downs	Seconded:	Greg Coleman
In Favor:	Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Wolf		
Against:	None		
Abstain:	None		
Absent:	Schafer, Schmidt		

## **AREA-WIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith gave updates on the area-wide programs in Riverside, Kern, and Tulare counties. She reported that 5,853 GWSS were trapped in Temecula, and 1,000 acres were treated. In the Coachella Valley, 93 GWSS were trapped this year, with 600 acres of citrus treated. For Kern County, over 4,000 acres were treated, with few GWSS trapped in the Hwy 65 area but over 30,000 GWSS trapped in the General Beale area. In Tulare County, 9,831 acres of citrus were treated. There was a new find northwest of Visalia, where there has never been a find before. The number of finds in Tulare County remain very low considering the amount of citrus acreage that is in the area.

## **FRESNO GWSS PROGRAM**

Craig Hanes gave an update on the GWSS infestation in Fresno County. He reported that several meetings had been held between PDCP, Fresno County, the USDA and cooperators with the goal of finding ways to protect the agricultural areas in Fresno County. A modified treatment program will be conducted, with a Pest Control Operator (PCO) applying foliar and systemic treatments under Fresno County's supervision. The cost of the program will be \$100,000 more than this year's contract work plan.

## **PDCP STAFF REPORTS**

Craig Hanes provided updates on current rapid response programs in Santa Clara and Sacramento counties. In the Capitol area of San Jose, there are 42 positive properties and 1,225 sites have been treated. The Branham area has not had any trap finds since the summer of 2007. The infestation in the Blossom Hill area will be eligible to be declared eradicated by the end of the year. The infestation in Rancho Cordova, Sacramento County was recently declared eradicated, having had no finds since 2006. The infestation in Foothill Farms could be declared eradicated by the end of the year, since there have been no finds since the summer of 2007. This will remove Sacramento County from the GWSS infested county list.

Greg Morris discussed the Approved Treatment Program (ATP) final report. He said finalization of the report was the result of an extensive and comprehensive review effort. A separate Residue Analysis Report was also prepared to cover items left out of the final ATP report. Greg said the next key initiatives are development of a standardized sampling protocol, deciding how many samples to collect, and determining the foliar residue needed for effective control.

Tom Esser reported that an RFP had been released for an environmental consultant to prepare a new Environmental Impact Report for the PDCP. The bids are due on November 2, 2009. He also reported that the Research Director (RD) contract with Dr. Nancy Ireland will end on June 30, 2010, so an RFP for a new RD contract will need to be released soon if the Board wishes to continue receiving RD services. The Board indicated it would like the RFP to be prepared and released. Tom said the joint CDFA-UC request for PD/GWSS research proposals was being prepared and the target release date was November 9, 2009. This will include an updated list of research priorities, based in part on the information received from the RSAP regarding targeted research objectives. Lastly, he reported that this year's PD Research Symposium will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento (rather than San Diego) on December 9-11, 2009.

#### **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126**

N/A

#### **RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

N/A

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

Nick Condos (CDFA Pest Exclusion Branch) and John Hooper (CDFA Pest Detection/Emergency Projects Branch) provided updates on the light brown apple moth (LBAM) and European grapevine moth (EGVM) infestations in California. They reported that LBAM currently occurs in 17 California counties. An EIR has been prepared for the program, and development of sterile insect release capability is progressing. EGVM was found in Napa County late in the season, and efforts are gearing up for an extensive survey when the weather warms up and the moths become active again.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on Thursday, January 21, 2010 by

Janet LeMasters